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Communist China: Rallies and demonstrations against Liu Shao-chi have spread to all parts of China, apparently in preparation for his formal dismissal.

For the third straight day, the New China News Agency has given official voice to the campaign. Without directly naming Liu, it has charged that he had always opposed Mao's thought and had "peddled" his own book (How To Be A Good Communist)--in contrast to Vice Chairman Lin Piao, who had always called on his soldiers to study Chairman Mao's works. Army officers and enlisted personnel are said to be calling Liu "a Khrushchev in our ranks."

Liu is charged with responsibility for the policy of compromise with Chiang Kai-shek in the 1930s, and is termed a "100 percent old counterrevolutionary" who opposed agricultural cooperatives. He is also accused of advocating extension of private plots and free markets, detente with the US and the Soviet Union, and reduced assistance to other peoples' revolutionary struggles. These charges are obviously fabricated, as Liu's statements and actions during the last 17 years have shown him to be a staunch supporter of Mao's policies. The purpose clearly is to blacken Liu's name further and to justify his ouster, which now appears imminent.

Official pronouncements of the last few days again link Liu with party General Secretary Teng Hsiao-ping, who is the object of accusations that Liu worked "in collusion with another top party person in authority taking the capitalist road." It is now almost certain that Liu and Teng lost all significant authority in August 1966 at the Eleventh Plenum. Numerous public rallies have been held to denounce the two since December, but central committee propaganda organs did not join in the attack until 30 March.

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The protracted campaign to remove Liu may best be explained by the new leadership's desire to root out or win over all of his personal followers in the party apparatus. Many senior party figures owe their positions to Liu and Teng, who had dominated the party apparatus for more than a decade. The ground-work evidently is being laid for the dismissal from the party in the near future not only of Liu and Teng, but also of a number of other important party leaders.

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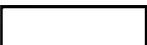
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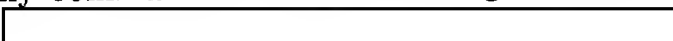
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NOTES

South Arabia: Nationalist-inspired violence continues in Aden, but record rains, drenching the city just before the UN mission arrived, apparently helped to hold the initial toll below British expectations. A general strike called by the Cairo-supported nationalists has been completely effective, however. The leaders of the South Arabian Federation Government are watching the mission's activities cautiously and might restrict them to Aden Colony if mission members show themselves too openly pronationalist. 

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Sierra Leone: The military regime is off to a shaky start. The factionalism building up within the ruling National Reformation Council appears likely to lead to serious infighting. In addition, cronies of imprisoned former prime minister Margai are reportedly trying to incite restive junior army officers still loyal to deposed army commander Lansana to stage an early counter coup. 

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